[Mr. A. Hoogewerf]

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not the fact that the report was not received in time mean that the affairs in the Excise Department are to continue as they are for the next two years during the biennial contract for 1100-11?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): We do not know what the recommendations of the Excise Committee are going to be. So far as the contract is concerned, that has been concluded for the next biennium.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Can the terms of the contract be altered in any way during the time of its currency?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. But there are so many other matters in connection with the excise policy with reference to which we have to await the recommendations of the Excise Committee to see what improvements can be effected.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Can shops be removed from one place to another after the contracts have been entered into?

Mr. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice of the question.

Mr. Van Ross's Case.

45. Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Is it a fact that Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai, High Court Vakil, has been appointed as Public Prosecutor for the conduct of Mr. Van Ross's case?

(*b*) If the answer is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to state the reasons for appointing him as Public Prosecutor, when there are so many Sirkar Vakils in Trivandrum?

(*c*) Are they sanctioning daily allowance to Mr. Van Ross on the days he attends court in connection with this case?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai was in charge of the prosecution of the case when it was pending before the District Magistrate, Trivandrum. When it was committed to the Sessions Court under the orders of the High Court, it was considered desirable to retain Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai himself for the conduct of the case in the Sessions Court.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many Sirkar Vakils and Assistant Sirkar Vakils are there in Trivandrum?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are two Sirkar Vakils attached to the District Court—one permanent and the other temporary.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Altogether?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are the Head Sirkar Vakil, the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil, etc. The number is given in the *Civil List*.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do not the Government consider that all these vakils are competent to conduct this case?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Then, why was Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai specially appointed?

PRESIDENT: The reason is given in the printed answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Why was Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai appointed when there are so many Sirkar Vakils to conduct the case?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The reason is there, in part (*b*) of the answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Whenever an attempt is made against an officer's character, do the Government propose to defend him as in the present case?

PRESIDENT: That is a hypothetical question.

Filling of Vacancies of Assistant Excise Commissioners.

46. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Is it a fact that there are two permanent vacancies of Assistant Excise Commissioners in the Excise Department, and that in those vacancies two junior Inspectors have been acting for the last two years?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are more than three supernumerary officers in the grades of Tahsildars and Superintendents of the Huzur Secretariat?

(*c*) Will they be pleased to state the reasons for not absorbing two of these supernumeraries in these permanent vacancies?

(*d*) Have any supernumerary officers applied for a place in the Excise Department, and, if so, what are the orders passed on their applications?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There are two permanent vacancies in the grade of Assistant Excise Commissioners in the department. The two officers who are acting in these two vacancies are the two senior First Grade Inspectors.

(*b*) There are no supernumerary Tahsildars now. There is a supernumerary Superintendent in the Huzur Secretariat; he has been absorbed in a vacancy which will become permanent in the near future.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*) above, this question does not arise.

(*d*) Yes. There was one such application by the supernumerary Superintendent mentioned in part (*b*) and it was forwarded to the Excise Commissioner.

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